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KEYSTONE Ag Digest

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are **not** published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

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In This Issue

The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address: ***www.nass.usda.gov/pa/agdigest.htm***

HOG AND PIG INVENTORY

There were 1,100,000 hogs and pigs on Pennsylvania farms on March 1, 2005. This estimated inventory was 70,000 head more than the previous year's inventory, and 20,000 head more than the previous quarter.

Market hog inventory, at 995,000 head, increased 30,000 head since December 2004; while breeding stock inventory, at 105,000 head, was down 10,000 head from December 2004 and down 15,000 from March of 2004. The December 2004-February 2005 pig crop totaled 456,000 head, up 5,000 head from March a year earlier and down 10,000 head from the September -November 2004 pig crop. There were 48,000 sows farrowed during the quarter, down 5,000 from the previous year. The average litter rate was 9.50 pigs per litter, unchanged from December and up from the 8.50 pigs for March the previous year.

Pennsylvania hog farmers intend to have 47,000 sows farrow during the March-May 2005 period and 48,000 for the June-August quarter, 3,000 less than actually farrowed in March-May 2004 and 2,000 more than actually farrowed in the June-August period one year ago.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2005, was 59.9 million head. This was 1 percent above March 2004, but 1 percent below December 1, 2004. Breeding inventory, at 5.94 million head, was down slightly from March 1, 2004, and last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.0 million head, was 1 percent above last year, but 1 percent below last quarter.

The December 2004-February 2005 **U.S.** pig crop, at 25.5 million head, was 2 percent more than 2004, and up 4 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, 1 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.94 for the December 2004-February 2005 period, compared to 8.85 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.87 million sows farrow during the March-May 2005 quarter, unchanged from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2004, but 1 percent below 2003. Intended farrowings for June-August 2005, at 2.88 million sows, are 1 percent below the same period in both 2004 and 2003. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 37 percent last year.

This issue contains results of the March Agricultural Survey. We wish to thank the many Pennsylvania farmers who helped make these results possible.

HOGS & PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBER, MARCH 1, 2004-2005

Item	Pennsylvania			United States		
	2004	2005	2005/04	2004	2005	2005/04
	(000) Head		Percent	(000) Head		Percent
Inventory - March 1:						
All Hogs & Pigs	1,030	1,100	107	59,520	59,899	101
Kept For Breeding	120	105	88	5,961	5,941	100
Market	910	995	109	53,558	53,957	101
Market Hogs & Pigs By Weight						
Under 60 Pounds	300	290	97	19,823	19,817	100
60-119 Pounds	240	290	121	12,954	13,087	101
120-179 Pounds	210	230	110	11,205	11,430	102
180 Pounds and Over	160	185	116	9,578	9,624	100
Sows Farrowing:						
December [1] - February	53	48	91	2,836	2,851	101
March-May	50	[2] 47	94	2,870	[2] 2,870	100
June-August	46	[2] 48	104	2,905	[2] 2,880	99
Pig Crop:						
December [1] - February	451	456	101	25,105	25,489	102
		Number			Number	
Pigs Per Litter:						
December [1] - February	8.50	9.50	112	8.85	8.94	101

[1] December preceding year. [2] Intentions.

MARCH FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX
UP 4 POINTS FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 118, based on 1990-92=100, is 4 points (3.5 percent) above the February index. The Crop Index is up 7 points (6.6 percent) while the Livestock Index is up 3 points (2.5 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, soybeans, lettuce, and corn. Lower prices were received for strawberries, grapefruit, apples, and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of strawberries, dairy, broilers, and tomatoes offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, oranges, and cotton.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 3 points (2.5 percent) from March 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 122, is 4 points (3.4 percent) above last month but down 1 point (0.8 percent) from March 2004.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, MARCH 2005

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Mar 2004	Feb 2005	Mar 2005 [1]	Mar 2004	Feb 2005	Mar 2005 [1]
		Dollars					
Corn	Bu.	3.31	2.35	2.47	2.75	1.95	2.03
Wheat, Winter [2]	Bu.	-	-	-	3.76	3.27	3.44
Oats	Bu.	2.05	2.04	2.00	1.60	1.66	1.60
Barley [2]	Bu.	-	-	-	2.77	2.37	2.48
Hay, Dry All	Ton	128.00	113.00	120.00	81.80	84.70	89.10
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	147.00	138.00	140.00	86.20	91.90	96.40
Dry Other	Ton	116.00	106.00	107.00	72.00	70.00	70.40
Apples, Fresh Use	Lb.	.191	.220	.225	.304	.208	.186
Potatoes	Cwt.	6.95	7.75	8.30	6.09	5.76	6.16
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	45.10	51.40	52.20	46.50	52.40	53.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	81.90	84.50	88.40	88.00	93.30	96.30
Calves	Cwt.	110.00	116.00	125.00	115.00	128.00	132.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	46.40	51.50	52.40	47.60	51.00	51.80
Sows	Cwt.	38.10	43.60	42.50	39.90	45.00	43.80
Eggs [3]	Doz.	1.020	.360	.310	1.000	.358	.327
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	16.70	16.90	-	15.40	15.50	15.60
Manufactured Grade	Cwt.	15.30	15.40	-	15.20	14.90	14.60
All	Cwt.	16.70	16.90	17.00	15.40	15.50	15.60
Milk Cows [4]	Head	-	-	-	-	-	-

[1] Preliminary. [2] Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. [3] Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. [4] Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.).

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, FEBRUARY 2005

Variety	February 29, 2004					February 28, 2005				
	Fresh Market [1]		Processing		Total	Fresh Market [1]		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	(1,000) Bushels									
York	1	14	423	542	980	1	1	180	625	807
Stayman	9	3	20	13	45	13	4	40	0	57
Rome	10	46	239	308	603	10	60	520	354	944
Red Delicious	35	268	49	106	458	30	215	70	59	374
Golden Delicious	8	81	640	594	1,323	10	103	350	360	823
Gala	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	6	1	5	12
McIntosh	3	3	11	0	17	2	3	1	11	17
Fuji	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	70	21	51	4	146
Other [2]	29	71	278	121	499	25	75	200	200	500
Total	**95**	**486**	**1,660**	**1,684**	**3,925**	**161**	**488**	**1,413**	**1,618**	**3,680**

[1] Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. [2] Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS
FEBRUARY 28, 2005

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 3,680,000 bushels on February 28, 2005, compared to 3,925,000 bushels on February 28, 2004. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: Rome with 944,000; Golden Delicious with 823,000; and York with 807,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 154,552,000 pounds on February 28, 2005, compared to 164,877,000 pounds on February 29, 2004. There were no pears in storage in Pennsylvania on February 28, 2005.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Pennsylvania farmers intend to plant more acres of oats, soybeans, and sorghum this spring and harvest more acres of dry hay and burley tobacco in 2005. Wheat acres planted last fall are up from the previous year as well. Barley and corn planting intentions and harvesting intentions for Pennsylvania seedleaf-type tobacco and Southern Maryland type tobacco are down from a year ago. All wheat planted, at 180,000 acres, is up 29 percent from last year, and 3 percent above the 2003 planted acres. Expected barley plantings are estimated at 55,000 acres, down 15 percent from 2004, and down 27 percent from the acreage planted 2003. Expected oats planted acreage is 140,000, up 8 percent from last year, but unchanged from 2003.
Intended plantings of corn for all purposes are 1,350,000 acres, down 50,000 acres from last year and 100,000 acres below two years ago. Farmers also intend to plant 13,000 acres of sorghum in 2005, which is up 1,000 acres from last year, but down 2,000 acres from 2003. Soybean acreage planting intentions are at 440,000 acres, 2 percent more than the 430,000 planted last year, and 60,000 more acres than two years ago. In the March Agricultural Survey Pennsylvania farmers were asked if they were aware of the discovery of Asian soybean rust in the United States and how its discovery had affected their planting decisions for the 2005 crop. Thirty-four percent of the Keystone state farmers surveyed reported that they had seen, read, or heard information about Asian rust. Among those farmers intending to plant soybeans, 87 percent were aware of the disease. Of all farm operators in Pennsylvania who were aware of the rust, only 4 percent said that it was a factor in their planting intentions, and of those farmers 19 percent intended to increase their soybean acreage, 43 percent intended to decrease their acreage, and 38 percent reported that they would not change their acreage from a year ago.

Intentions are to harvest 1,500 acres of Southern Maryland-type tobacco, down 32 percent from a year ago. Pennsylvania seedleaf-type tobacco harvested acreage is expected to be 1,300 acres, down 28 percent from last year. Pennsylvania farmers also intend to plant 2,400 acres of burley tobacco this year. Harvest intentions for all dry hay in 2005 is 1,750,000 acres, up 3 percent or 50,000 acres from last year's harvest and 100,000 acres more than in 2003.

Farmers in the **United States** intend to plant 81.4 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2005, up 1 percent from 2004 and 4 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be the largest corn acreage since 1985. Expected acreage is up from last year throughout much of the Corn Belt and southern Great Plains. However, growers in most states in the Delta, Southeast, and northern Great Plains intend to decrease their corn acreage as producers are switching to more profitable crops due to low corn prices and high fuel and fertilizer costs. Soybean producers intend to plant 73.9 million acres in 2005, down 2 percent from last year's record high acreage. Of the 31 soybean producing states, growers in 16 states intend to plant fewer acres this year, while producers in 11 states intend to plant more acres than in 2004. The largest acreage declines are in the Dakotas, where low soybean prices have some farmers shifting to other crops. Large declines in soybean acreage are also expected in the Delta and Southeast states. All wheat planted area is expected to total 58.6 million acres in 2005, down 2 percent from 2004. If realized, this would be the lowest planted acreage since 1972. Winter wheat planted area for the 2005 crop is 41.6 million acres, down 4 percent from 2004. Of the total, about 30.5 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 6.6 million acres Soft Red Winter, and 4.5 million acres White Winter.

The 2005 intended sorghum area planted for all purposes is estimated at 7.40 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. Barley producers intend to plant 3.97 million acres in 2005, down 12 percent from last year and, if realized, the lowest barley planted acreage since estimates began in 1926. Oat acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2005 crop year are expected to total 4.27 million, up 4 percent from last year's planted area. All tobacco growers intend to harvest 319,860 acres in 2005, down 22 percent from both 2004 and 2003. If realized, this would be the lowest harvested acreage on record.

Acreage to be harvested for dry hay is expected to be 62.9 million in 2005, up 2 percent from last year. The two states with the largest expected increases are New York, which is up 470,000 acres from last year, and South Dakota, which is up 300,000. Acreage in Texas and Oklahoma is expected to increase due to beneficial weather conditions. A wet fall combined with a mild winter has allowed for adequate soil moisture and expectations of a larger hay crop in those states. Conversely, much of the Northwest has experienced an unusually dry winter with very low snow-pack levels leading to reduced expectations for hay in that region.

Data users are reminded that actual acreages planted may vary from intentions because of changes in grower plans, the effects of weather, availability of production inputs, and changes in market conditions prior to planting. Data users are also reminded that this report includes intentions to plant for all purposes.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Crop	Area Planted			
	2003	2004	Ind 2005	2005/04
	(000) Acres			Percent
Corn				
Pennsylvania	1,450	1,400	1,350	96
United States	78,603	80,930	81,413	101
All Wheat [1]				
Pennsylvania	175	140	180	129
United States	62,141	59,674	58,592	98
Oats [1]				
Pennsylvania	140	130	140	108
United States	4,597	4,085	4,267	104
Barley [1]				
Pennsylvania	75	65	55	85
United States	5,348	4,527	3,974	88
Soybeans				
Pennsylvania	380	430	440	102
United States	73,404	75,208	73,910	98
Sorghum				
Pennsylvania	15	12	13	108
United States	9,420	7,486	7,400	99
Dry All Hay [2]				
Pennsylvania	1,650	1,700	1,750	103
United States	63,383	61,916	62,940	102
All Tobacco [2]				
Pennsylvania	3.7	4.0	5.2	130
United States	411.2	409.1	319.9	78

[1] Includes area planted in preceding fall. [2] Area harvested.

MARCH GRAIN STOCKS

Pennsylvania's **corn** stored in all positions on March 1, 2005 was 63.4 million bushels, up more than 50 percent from last year's level of 41.5 million bushels. On-farm corn stocks amounted to 55 million bushels down 52 percent from December's level. Off-farm stocks were 8.4 million bushels.
Wheat stored off farms totaled 6.3 million bushels, up three percent from last year, but down 15 percent from December 2004's total of 7.4 million bushels. **Soybeans** stored off farms totaled 2.75 million bushels down 28 percent from December. **Barley** stored off farms was 227 thousand bushels, down 163,000 bushels from December. **Oats** stored in all positions were 3.1 million bushels, 2.7 million on farm and 420 thousand off farm. Pennsylvania's on-farm stocks of corn and oats are the only two commodities published, all other commodities are not published separately but instead are included with an unallocated National total.

For the **United States**, **corn** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 6.75 billion bushels, up 28 percent from March 1, 2004. This is the highest March 1 stocks level since 1988. Of the total stocks, 4.14 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 37 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.62 billion bushels, are up 17 percent from a year ago. The December 2004 - February 2005 indicated disappearance is 2.70 billion bushels, compared with 2.68 billion bushels during the same period last year. **Soybeans** stored in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 1.38 billion bushels, up 52 percent from March 1, 2004. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at 795 million bushels, up 123 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 586 million bushels, are up 7 percent from last March. Indicated disappearance for the December 2004 - February 2005 quarter totaled 924 million bushels, up 18 percent from the same period a year earlier. All **wheat** stored in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 981 million bushels, down 4 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 305 million bushels, up 18 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 676 million bushels, are down 11 percent from a year ago. The December 2004 - February 2005 indicated disappearance is 449 million bushels, down 10 percent from the same period a year earlier.

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Feb 2004	Jan 2005	Feb 2005	Feb 2004	Jan 2005	Feb 2005
Layers	Thous.	23,938	24,484	24,455	339,647	348,142	348,974
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,168	2,336	2,135	2,032	2,188	1,980
Eggs Produced	Million	519	572	522	6,901	7,617	6,908
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	4,849	5,818	4,790	32,078	36,761	32,910
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	12,018	14,168	12,951	727,936	796,026	731,274
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	22,905	21,887	21,321

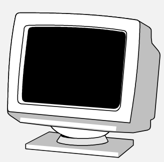
EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during February 2005 totaled 522 million eggs, a slight increase from the 519 million produced in February 2004. The total number of layers averaged 24.5 million during February, compared with 23.9 million one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,135 eggs during the month, compared with 2,168 eggs in February 2004. Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2005 totaled 4.8 million, down slightly from last year. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 13.0 million during February 2005, up 8 percent from the same month last year.

The Nation's laying flocks produced 6.91 billion eggs during February 2005, up slightly from last year. The total number of layers during February averaged 349 million, up 3 percent from one year ago. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,980 eggs, down 3 percent from February 2004. Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during February totaled 32.9 million, up 3 percent from February 2004. Broiler-type hatch totaled 731 million, up slightly from the previous February. There were 21.3 million turkey poults placed in the United States during February 2005, down 7 percent from the number placed during the same month a year ago.

County estimates for 2004 can now be found online for barley, oats, wheat, corn, soybeans and sorghum. Check out NASS's homepage at www.usda.gov/nass/

Click on 'QuickSTATS'



COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, FEB 2005

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Mil. Lbs.	88.0	3,423
Cattle	Thous. Hd.	61.9	2,341
	Mil. Lbs. Live	74.2	2,937
Calves	Thous. Hd.	13.6	62
	Mil. Lbs. Live	5.3	20
Hogs	Thous. Hd.	224.5	8,104
	Mil. Lbs. Live	55.1	2,187
Sheep & Lambs	Thous. Hd.	3.7	215
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.3	30

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in **Pennsylvania** during February 2005 totaled 88 million pounds, down 10 percent from February 2004. Beef production, at 74.2 million pounds live weight, was down 18 percent from February 2004. Total head slaughtered was 61,900, down 17 percent; and live weight averaged 1,199 pounds, a decrease of 22 pounds. Veal slaughter was 5.3 million pounds live weight, up 3 percent from last year. Calf slaughter of 13,600 head was 1 percent less than last year. Average live weight increased 14 pounds to 389 pounds. Pork production was 55.1 million pounds live weight, down 2 percent from 2004. Total head slaughtered was 224,500, a slight increase from last year. Live weight averaged 245 pounds, 5 pounds lighter than last year. Lamb and mutton slaughter was 336,000 pounds live weight, down 45 percent. The number slaughtered was 3,700 head, down 33 percent. The average live weight decreased 20 pounds to 91 pounds.

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